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Between analyzing the latest new trends and lamest leftover fads, **Jeffrey Slonim** made the rounds with his brood to the chicest kids' pool parties in the Hamptons. The result? A list chock full of splashy "ins" and all-wet "outs."

JEFFREY SLONIM

In John Cheever's great short story *The Swimmer*, Neddy Merrill, a world-weary WASP, swims his way through suburbia one pool party at a time, as his life, his family, and time itself appear to dissolve in the interim. But in the accelerated Hamptons social swirl, life hasn't only become one big pool party for adults. My children were invited to several water-themed events the weekend before last and one the weekend before that.

Friday night, Kelly Behun (of BehunZiff design, the team responsible for Ian Schrager's chic city pad) and her husband, Jay Sugarman (iStar Financial), held their annual tropical-themed birthday fête for their son at Flying Point Beach. Their own Brasilia-scale oceanfront residence in Southampton is still under construction. Sugarman unfortunately left the plastic palm trees at the public beach an hour early that afternoon and someone snatched them. Bad form.

Saturday morning, Eva and Brendan Dillon, the affable parents of one of my son's adorable school chums, held a pool party at their new beach house in the bucolic Georgica section of East Hampton. They brought in a bouncy waterslide and what appeared to be the entire staff of Snow Flake to dish out fanciful flavors. Yum.

On party-packed Sunday, we celebrated the birthday of one Prez Thomas (his mom and dad, Walter and Trez Thomas, founded a film production company called Air Force One) in Bridgehampton. Among the guests, we spotted 1980's modern art star James Nares and his kids, Fred Schneider of the B-52s, and poet Max Blagg, editor of *Bald Ego* (the hip literary journal).

And the weekend before that, Stewart Lane and Bonnie Comley, the dynamic couple who produced *Gypsy* (directed by Sam Mendes), threw a Hawaiian-themed kids' party at their Gatsby-like mansion in the Northwest Woods. Here, the theater-world minions wore plastic skirts and drank from plastic coconuts. And after several tropical rum drinks, the adults amusingly began imitating the voices of the GPS systems in their cars. Cheever would have had a field day.

Apparently, in Range Rovers an English gentleman dolls out directions by saying things like, "Turn left onto the motorway." The owner of a CLK Mercedes-Benz said the voice of his system sounded like a no-nonsense newswoman, possibly Harvard-educated. A Cadillac Escalade SUV owner said that his car's direction system has the disembodied voice of a businesslike woman. Apparently it didn't sound as breathy as the voice of Lane's S500 Mercedes, which, he says, has a voice with a Marilyn Monroe-esque timbre that "you'd follow anywhere."

That didn't beat all; the father of one pint-sized reveler claimed that the voice of the guidance system in his Lexus SUV sounds like a sexy Texan co-ed.

Imagine: "Ya'll hang a left." Now that's cute.

IN	OUT
Kool & the Gang	Gangs
Endless driveways	Endless lunches
Ron and Ellen	Ellen
Bogo's Food Spa	Bongos (think Matthew McConaughey)
Haven	Antique clothing mavens
Hamptons Chocolates	Hamptons Vodka
House watching by connectedhearth.com	Burst pipes
Patricia Clarkson	Patricia Field
Jennyz (bejeweled designs by Jennifer Oz LeRoy, who has five horses at the Classic)	Ali G
Nannies	Body Guards
Motorola Push-to-Talk phone	Nextel
High boots	Shoe boots
Sun visors	The sun
GM Denali	Chevy Suburban
Snow Flake	Snow cones
Kids' parties	Dog parties
Brett Ratner	Dan Rattiner
Photo booths	Polaroid's
Letting the petals fall and leaving them	Neat freaks
Giving Mom a house	Mooching off Mom
<i>Jewtopia</i> (Irina Pantaeva's play in Los Angeles)	Topiary animals
Satellite radio in your car	Satellite dish at your house
Pool houses	Pool halls
Crêpes	Talking crap
Jacqueline Dunbar (of Salt & Butter)	Jacqueline Susanne
Flying Point Beach	Cooper's Beach
Looking natural	Going au naturel
See-through cover-ups	See-through blouses
Making out daily	Making out with Carson Daly
Hopi Dopuler (makeup artist to the stars)	Sloppy makeup
Mocha Frette	Mocha Frappuccinos